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EXAMINER

DADA, BEEMNET W

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in reply to an amendment filed on May 13, 2008. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-12 have been amended and new claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-14 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 13, 2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-3, 5-7 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Celik US 6,374,259 B1 in view of Douvikas et al. US 6,633,311 B1.

As per claims 1 and 6, Celik teaches in a web card system including at least a server having at least a database and a search engine, a privacy control system comprising:

a) means for storing web card information of a first user of the web card system in the database, wherein the web card information can be used to generate web cards having different

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versions corresponding to different privacy control levels (i.e., public, private and/or limited access, column 6, lines 35-65);

b) means for storing names of other users of the web card system and authorization codes, wherein each of the names of the other users is associated with one of the authorization codes, and wherein different authorization codes are associated with different privacy control levels [column 5, lines 5-21 and column 6, lines 35-65];

c) means for receiving an authorization code and a search request for web card information of the first user from a second user of the web card system [column 8, line 53-column 9, line 35];

d) means for searching for the name of the second user in the table and determining whether the authorization code received from the second user matches the authorization code associated with the second user in the table [column 9, lines 23-60];

e) means for generating a web card of the first user corresponding to the version of the web card associated with the privacy control level that is associated with the authorization code of the second user [column 9, line 61-column 10, line 10]; and

f) means for transmitting the generated web card to the second user [column 9, line 61-column 10, line 10].

Celik does not explicitly teaches storing a table comprising names of other users of the web card system and authorization codes. Douvikas teaches a web card system including means for storing a table comprising names of other users of the web card system and authorization codes, wherein each of the names of the other user in the table is associated with one or authorization codes and wherein different authorization codes are associated with different privacy control levels [column 13, lines 42-column 14, line 14, figures 19A, B, C]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

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employ the teachings of Douvikas within the system of Celik in order to enhance security of the system.

As per claim 2, Celik further teaches the system wherein said means for storing web card information is part of said database [column 5, lines 5-21 and column 6, lines 35-65].

As per claim 3, Douvikas further teaches the system wherein said means for storing a table comprises names of other user of the web card system and authorization code is part of said database [column 13, lines 42-column 14, line 14, figures 19A, B, C].

As per claim 5, Celik further teaches the system wherein said means for transmitting the generated web card is part of said search engine [column 9, line 61-column 10, line 10].

As per claim 7, Celik further teaches the system wherein if the search request from the second user does not include an authorization code, the web card server sends a limited access authorization code to the second user [column 6, lines 35-65].

As per claims 9-11, Celik further teaches the system wherein there are at least three versions of web cards corresponding to at least three levels of privacy control [column 6, lines 35-65].

As per claim 12, Celik further teaches the method wherein the web card system transmits from time to time web card information to designated users of such information in accordance with the authorization given to these users [column 9, line 61-column 10, line 10].

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As per claims 13 and 14, Celik further teaches the method further comprising means for transmitting one or more authorization codes to the other user of the web card system [[column 9, line 61-column 10, line 10].

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BEEMNET W. DADA whose telephone number is (571)272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Beemnet W Dada/

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August 17, 2008

/KimYen Vu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2135